



ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

A3275-2

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
1920 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036
(202) 835-9555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 28, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 23 totaled an estimated 18.3 billion ton-miles, 0.4 percent above the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 12 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 202.1 billion ton-miles, down 4.9 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 23 totaled 399,563, down 1.1 percent from last year, but 0.4 percent higher than the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 0.8 percent in the South, but down 1.3 percent in the East and 2.2 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 15 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Coal loadings increased by 5,231 cars (4.4 percent) and loadings of crushed stone, gravel and sand were up 1,688 cars (16.5 percent). Fifteen of 21 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended March 16 totaled 88,394 trailers and/or containers, 6.9 percent below the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first eleven weeks of the year was 907,760 trailers and/or containers, down 4.1 percent from 1984.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/23/85:

	<u>Loadings in</u> <u>Week ended</u> <u>March 23, 1985</u>		<u>Change from</u> <u>Corresponding</u> <u>Week 1984</u>			<u>Change from</u> <u>Preceding</u> <u>Week</u>	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	23,173	D	4,083	15.0	D	1,663	0.7
Other farm products	3,345	D	84	2.4	D	489	12.8
Metallic ores	14,860	D	1,806	10.8	I	3,025	25.6
Coal	123,229	I	5,231	4.4	I	3,578	3.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	11,949	I	1,688	16.5	I	1,353	12.8
Nonmetallic minerals	11,901	D	487	3.9	I	196	1.7
Grain mill products	10,374	D	664	6.0	D	283	2.7
Food and kindred products	10,942	D	6	0.1	D	697	6.0
Primary forest products	12,611	D	1,788	12.4	D	302	2.3
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,932	D	1,116	13.9	D	214	3.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,448	D	464	3.1	D	195	1.3
Chemicals and allied products	27,344	I	1,400	5.4	D	849	3.0
Petroleum products	4,868	I	318	7.0	I	183	3.9
Stone, clay and glass products	11,398	I	384	3.5	I	149	1.3
Coke	4,841	D	836	14.7	D	469	8.8
Metals and products	9,430	D	1,397	12.9	D	233	2.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,209	I	1,001	4.7	D	635	2.8
Waste and scrap materials	10,148	D	369	3.5	D	387	3.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	6,705	D	932	12.2	D	211	3.1
All other carloads	58,726	D	385	0.7	D	309	0.5
LCL traffic	130	D	152	53.9	D	28	17.7
Total Cars Loaded	399,563	D	4,547	1.1	I	1,520	0.4

Corresponding week of 1984

404,110

	<u>1985</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Total Cars Loaded (12 weeks)	4,366,111	4,630,089	D 5.7

Estimated revenue ton-miles
(in billions):

11 Weeks ended March 16	183.7	194.2	D 5.4
Week ended March 23	18.3	18.3	I 0.4
12 weeks cumulative	202.1	212.4	D 4.9